

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Glaser* (U.S. Patent No. 4,303,847) in view of *Ohnuma et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,118,986).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 12 has been added.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5 and 12 are pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Glaser* in view of *Ohnuma et al*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites that the sealing member is *coated with* an absorbing material made of a porous aluminum oxide. Support for this feature can be found, for example, in Applicant's specification at page 5, lines 24 to 25, at page 6, lines 4 to 6, and in Figure 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 1 does not narrow the intended scope of the claim. Therefore, Applicant does not intend to relinquish any subject matter by the amendment.

Glasser is directed towards a flat-panel display with a gas-permeable metallic rear sheet 18. In contrast to Applicant's invention, *Glasser* discloses that this rear sheet 18 "overlies" a

compressible porous sheet, mat or blanket 16. (Col. 3, ll. 42-46.) Although the “malleability of the sheet 18 enables it to conform to the shape of the blanket 16,” the sheet 18 and the blanket 16 are individual components of the flat-panel display. (Col. 4, ll. 39-42.) In *Glasser*, the blanket may even be omitted entirely. (Col. 4, ll. 12-29.)

In addition, as recognized by the Examiner, *Glasser* fails to disclose the use of a sealing member in an *organic EL device*. Therefore, the Examiner relies on *Ohnuma et al* for this teaching. *Ohnuma et al*, however, is directed toward an electroluminescent device comprising an anode, a cathode and at least two organic compound layers sandwiched between the two layers (col. 2, line 67 - col. 3, line 2; Figs. 1-2), which can be driven at a low voltage, maintain its luminosity for a long time, control the wavelength of the light emission and exhibit durability. *Ohnuma et al*, however, does not disclose an *insulator layer or sealing member* as part of the device. Furthermore, the absorbing material of Applicant’s invention is preferable for use in an organic EL device (and is not necessary in devices that are not EL devices) because if, e.g., a water impurity is allowed to exist in the casing of the device, the water might cause the wiring to be stripped from the organic semiconductor, which, as a result, will compromise the illumination of the device.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine the flat-panel display of *Glasser* with *Ohnuma et al* because the particular composition of *Glasser* is for the purpose of sealing an electron structure in a vacuum for protection for the components, while the *Ohnuma et al* devise is for the purpose of *maintaining surface-area luminescence* without regard for the exposure of the components to the atmosphere. (*Ohnuma*, col. 1, ll. 5-11.) The only

motivation to combine *Glaser* with *Ohnuma et al* is to meet the features of Applicant's invention as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, fully complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2 and 5 are allowable at least because of their dependence from independent claim 1 as amended and for the separate features that they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claim 12

Applicants have added new dependent claim 12. Support for this claim can be found, for example, in Applicant's the specification at page 4, line 25, and at page 9, lines 1 to 2. No new matter has been added by this new claim. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 12 is allowable at least because of its dependence from independent claim 1 as amended and for the separate features that it recites.

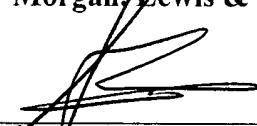
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of times fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully Submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. An organic EL device comprising:
a lower electrode formed on a substrate;
an organic EL layer formed on the lower electrode;
an upper electrode formed on the organic EL layer;
a sealing member for sealing said lower electrode, organic EL layer and upper electrode on said substrate so that they are covered with the sealing member, wherein said sealing member is further comprised of an aluminum material and is coated with an absorbing material[, which is] made of a porous aluminum oxide [layer formed by anodic oxidation of said aluminum material on an inner surface thereof, for absorbing an impurity].

New claim 12 has been added.